

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

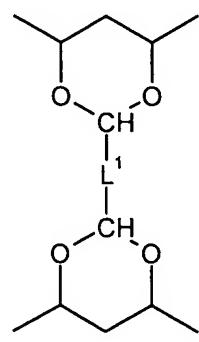
The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of assessing the pH of a substrate or environment, the method comprising contacting the substrate with a test material or introducing the test material into an environment, wherein said test material is arranged to change colour according to pH.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said substrate or environment is a tissue of a human or animal body, and said test material is at least a part of a dressing having a main surface arranged to contact a said tissue wherein the test material is arranged to contact a first area of a said tissue and the test material is such that it is arranged to change colour over at least 50% of the area of said first area so that the pH of individual elements of at least 50% of said first area can be monitored.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 2, wherein said test material is a hydrogel.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 2, wherein said material comprises a carrier means and an indicator means arranged to change colour according to pH.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein said carrier means and said indicator means are covalently bonded to one another.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein said indicator means is impregnated in said carrier means and trapped therein in a matrix defined by said carrier means.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 2, wherein said test material includes at least 0.01 wt% and less than 3 wt% of said indicator means.
8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein said carrier means comprises a natural or synthetic polymer or a residue thereof in the event that said indicator means is covalently bonded to the carrier means; and said indicator means comprises a natural or synthetic material or a residue thereof in the event said indicator means is covalently bonded to said carrier means.
9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said test material is in sheet form and is arranged to change colour according to pH at first, second, third and fourth positions thereon, wherein the ratio of the area defined between said four positions to the area of the main surface of the sheet is at least 0.5.
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 2, wherein said test material includes a second polymeric material comprising a third polymeric material which is cross-linked by a cross-linking means.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said third polymeric material is a polyvinyl polymer or a copolymer comprising a polyvinyl repeat unit.
12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein said the third polymeric material is selected from optionally substituted polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl acetate, polyalkalene glycols and collagen.
13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein said second polymeric material includes cross-linked polyvinyl alcohol or a copolymer thereof.

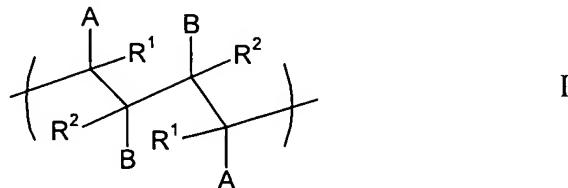
14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein said second polymeric material includes a moiety of formula I:



wherein L¹ is a residue of said cross-linking means.

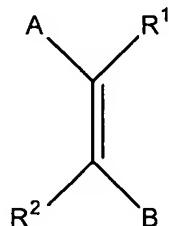
15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein said cross-linking means comprises:

- (a) a first polymeric material having a repeat unit of formula



wherein A and B are the same or different, are selected from optionally-substituted aromatic and heteroaromatic groups and at least one comprises a relatively polar atom or group and R¹ and R² independently comprise relatively non-polar atoms or groups; or

- (b) a first polymeric material prepared or preparable by providing a compound of general formula



wherein A, B, R¹ and R² are as described above, in an aqueous solvent and causing the groups C=C in said compound to react with one another to form said first polymeric material.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said test material comprises a carrier means and an indicator means which is trapped within a matrix defined by the carrier means wherein said indicator means is not covalently bonded to the carrier means.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 2, which includes the step of comparing the visual appearance of the test material with a reference means; or the test material may be arranged to enable pH information to be obtained directly from it without recourse to any external reference means.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 2, wherein the method comprises assessing the pH of said substrate or environment; and, subsequently, carrying out another step in dependence upon the pH assessed.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein said substrate is a tissue of the human or animal body and a subsequent treatment of said body is selected in dependence upon the pH assessed.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said test material is part of a dressing for the human or animal body.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said test material is arranged to provide a pH map of a substrate which it contacts.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to any claim 4 2, wherein said test material is arranged, by virtue of it being transparent, to allow colour changes to be observed with the test material in situ.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 2, wherein said test material includes securement means for securing it relative to a said substrate wherein said test material is used to asses the pH of part of a human or animal body.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Original) A method of assessing pH of a substrate or environment, the method comprising contacting the substrate with a test material or introducing the test material into an environment, wherein said test material includes a third polymeric material, cross-linked by a cross-linking means, wherein said cross-linking means incorporates aromatic or hetero-aromatic groups.
30. (Canceled)
31. (Currently Amended) A package which contains a test material in a sterile environment wherein said test material, releasing said test material, comprising comprises a carrier means in a form of a hydrogel and an indicator means arranged to change colour according to pH.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Canceled)
34. (Canceled)
35. (Canceled)
36. (Canceled)
37. (New) The use of a test material according to claim 31 in assessing the pH of a substrate or environment.

38. (New) A method of assessing the pH of a tissue of a human or animal body, the method comprising contacting said tissue with a test material which comprises a hydrogel comprising a carrier means and an indicator means arranged to change colour according to pH, wherein said test material is in sheet form and is arranged to change colour independently according to pH at first, second, third and fourth positions thereon, wherein the ratio of the area defined between said first, second, third and fourth positions to the area of a major surface of said test material is at least 0.5, wherein said test material is arranged to display a colour indicative of the pH at a first position which it contacts and to display a colour indicative of the pH at another position it contacts so that a pH map of a tissue contacted by said test material can be defined.

39. (New) A test material which comprises a hydrogel comprising a carrier means and an indicator means arranged to change colour according to pH, wherein said test material is in sheet form and is arranged to change colour independently according to pH at first, second, third and fourth positions thereon, wherein the ratio of the area defined between said first, second, third and fourth positions to the area of a major surface of said test material is at least 0.5, wherein said test material is arranged to display a colour indicative of the pH at a first position which it contacts in use and to display a colour indicative of the pH at another position it contacts in use so that a pH map of a tissue contacted in use by said test material can be defined.